

ANNUAL REPORT **2022**

© image: Iulia Petria - Light from the church window illumines an icon of the Virgin Mary in the Orthodox Church of Saint Serge in Paris, France



© image: Andre Boto (winner of the 2022 Photo Competition)
- Sunset in the historic center of Silves, Portugal

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© image: Balog Zoltan (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition) - Layer of religious painting taken in ortodox church of Cicău village in Alba County, Romania

Mission, Vision, Values

Future for Religious Heritage (FRH) was founded in 2011 as an organisation dedicated to the safeguarding of Europe's diverse and unique religious heritage. It is the only independent, non-faith, and non-profit network of charities and conservation departments of governmental, religious and university institutions, and other professionals and individuals working to protect religious heritage buildings across Europe, with over 200 members in 36 countries.

MISSION

- FRH works to ensure the promotion and safeguarding of Europe's religious heritage, by bringing together organisations and individuals in a Europe-wide network and participating in forums and advocacy networks in order to bring the voice of religious heritage to relevant stakeholders and policymakers.

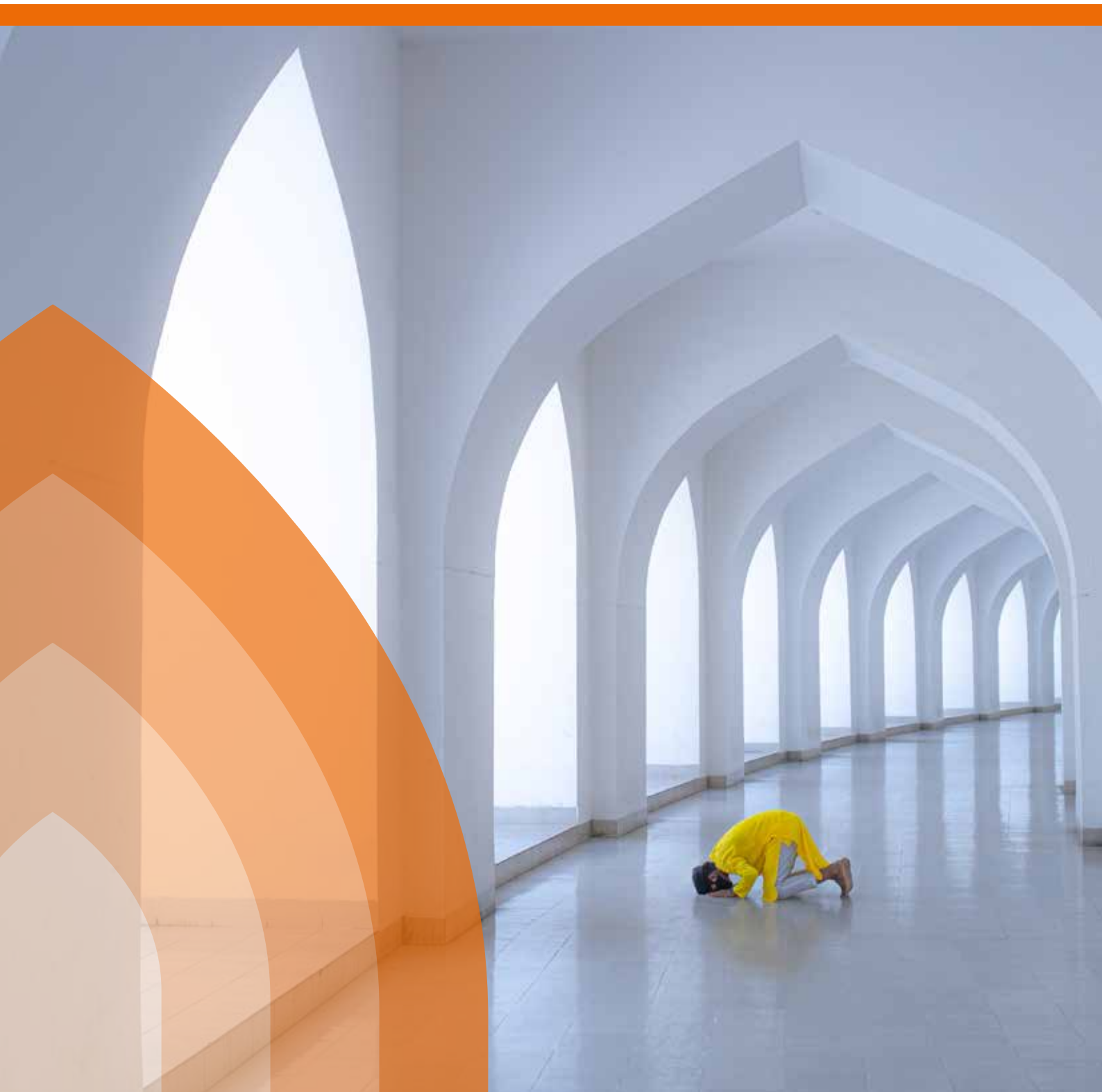
VISION

- **Unite** – FRH consists of over 70 organisations and 122 professionals from 36 countries, seeking to promote and enhance good practices, project development and professional collaboration with all those interested in safeguarding Europe's historic places of worship as well as intangible religious heritage.
- **Promote** – FRH promotes the value of religious heritage by raising public interest and encouraging community engagement in the conservation and safeguarding of Europe's religious heritage.
- **Protect** – FRH works closely with EU policymakers and relevant cultural heritage stakeholders and forums. It shares relevant information and recommendations regarding the implementation of legislation that promotes community engagement, sustainability, cultural preservation, and innovation around religious heritage. This includes finding innovative solutions for preserving historic places of worship including extended use and reuse, to avoid demolition or abandonment.

VALUES

- **Engagement** – reaching out to relevant communities, professionals, policymakers, and the public.
- **Sustainability** – working towards the sustainability of religious heritage to ensure it can be passed on to future generations.
- **Protection** – safeguarding Europe's tangible and intangible religious heritage; avoiding the abandonment and destruction of this invaluable European heritage.
- **Innovation** – finding new and innovative ways to protect historic places of worship.

Since 2017, FRH is one of the 36 European networks receiving funding from the Creative Europe Programme (EACEA) of the European Commission. This support is aimed at the operation, growth and consolidation of the network.



© image: Jahid Alam Apu (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition) - A Muslim devotee praying in baitul mukarram mosque in Dhaka, Bangladesh

President's Report

The war in Ukraine was an unexpected blow to the lives of many people and to the precious religious heritage of a whole country, part of which has already been lost or severely damaged. The information provided by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine at the European Council meeting in November was extremely alarming: 270 religious buildings have been damaged or destroyed since the outbreak of the conflict on 20th February 2022.

This reminds us once again of the vulnerability of our religious heritage and the need to continue educating European society in the valorisation of cultural heritage, while at the same time empowering professionals to build resilience to confront new challenges and find innovative solutions for the future.

We began 2022 with great pride, as one of the 36 networks funded by the Creative Europe programme, which will allow us to continue our projects and activities during the period 2022-2024. Under the name of 'FRH Unite', this EU grant has opened a new chapter in the history of the network and demonstrated its consolidation after the 10th year anniversary in 2021.

Throughout the European Year of Youth 2023, FRH carried out several campaigns and activities to bring religious heritage closer to young people and involve them in finding creative solutions for the future: the Run for Heritage campaign, Photo Competition, collaboration with the European Students Association for Cultural Heritage (ESACH) and a bi-monthly column for youth in our newsletter among other actions.

FRH maintains its commitment to sustainability and to the objectives of the European Green Deal and is a partner of the European Bauhaus initiative and the Climate Heritage Network. The 'Religious Heritage

Innovator of the Year Award' was launched this year and will continue in 2023/24, with the aim to collect, analyse, publicise and reward the best examples of innovation in the field of religious heritage, this year with a focus on sustainability. We also supported the first New European Bauhaus Festival and developed a workshop on sustainability and renewable energy potential of religious heritage sites during the European Week of Regions and Cities.

These initiatives are a small grain of sand towards sustainability, which will continue at our upcoming FRH Biennial Conference titled 'European Sustainable Religious Heritage' and will take place in Lund, Sweden on April 20-21 2023.

We are looking forward to 2023, which is the European Year of Skills, a very relevant theme within the religious heritage sector, which FRH will fully support with activities and events – stay tuned!

Pilar G. Bahamonde
FRH President





© image: Josef Hinterleitner (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition)
- Kreuzweg - Mondsee, Austria

Advisory Board President's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

The biggest driver in 2022 was war on the European continent which has highlighted our issues with sustainability. The whole world is facing sustainability challenges and is seeking new solutions, new approaches to build a resilient and inclusive future. I am convinced Europe's religious heritage can contribute to these solutions as religious heritage is both important for and contributes to society as a whole. Tangible and intangible religious heritage is important from many different perspectives. Apart from representing our European History and identity, containing our most important works of art, places of worship around the world provide a growing list of essential services for people in urgent need. Communities gather together in and around them. We should be very much aware of the risks associated with losing religious buildings through lack of simple repairs. Losses we may never be able to replace.

FRH is right and square in the centre of these issues. Unsurprisingly, sustainability is the keyword of our conference in Lund, Sweden this April 20-23rd: Sustainability from an economic, ecological, social, cultural, and spiritual perspective. Together with experts in the field the current scenario of the religious heritage in Europe will be analyzed, the latest developments will be shared and the most pressing issues discussed. Hot topics such as action against climate change threats or the worrisome situation in Ukraine.

I am already looking forward to meet, share knowledge and participate in the discussion to learn from each other again. I'm proud to observe and be part of FRH's growth in its capacity to be a true catalyst of change and improvement in the sector. Our network is growing every year and its wide based and interdisciplinary members make it possible to face and find solutions together.

We close a year of continuous contributions to the sector, as you will find illustrated all throughout our Annual report, marked with strong commitment from our council and committees and believe that **exchanging and sharing knowledge are the true keys to make the sector thrive at all levels.**

I hope I can count on you to help us preserve and promote our religious heritage for the benefit of future generations. It is up to us to make the most of it!

Lilian Grootswagers-Theuns
Advisory Board President

Owner of Erfgoed.nu, the Netherlands. Founding member and former secretary of FRH Council. She represents FRH in the Commissions Cultural Heritage Expert group.





© image: Szymon Wójcik (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition)
- Old tree chapel at the top of the Liwocz in Podkarpackie, Poland

Greeting from the new FRH Council Members



Lacramioara Beilic
Council Member

I come from Romania, from Bucovina, a unique place well-known as the land of painted monasteries. Here, our history and our culture created a space where past and present spirituality coexist even in the 21st century. Our legacy, our religious heritage comes from Middle Age and attracts not only locals, but also visitors from all corners of the world.

It is a great privilege to be a member of Future for Religious Heritage organization, I have discovered here very kind and warm people, very professional and highly motivated to preserve and to promote their local religious heritage sites. I have great memories from different projects and activities and I really hope the future will bring to us new opportunities of cooperation. Because only together we'll succeed to accomplish our goal to be the voice of the European religious heritage.

My best wishes to all of you!



Chiara Curti
Council Member

My feeling, in this first year of being part of the FRH Council, is gratitude.

FHR is for me a source of hope, the culture of Europe is not an abstract concept but can be felt by its beauty. Surrounded by the colleagues of FRH the feeling of secureness that the religious heritage becomes the foundation of a better Europe is assured. Let's walk together in 2023!



Sofia M. Vollmer
Council Member

I'm honoured at joining the Future for Religious Heritage and participating in its Council activities. I look forward to participating in the activities and projects that the year ahead has in store for us, to work together on keeping European religious heritage at the centre of our cultural and societal activities. We will continue to motivate younger generations across Europe to the joys and responsibilities of safeguarding our heritage!



© image: Baruch Gian (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition)
- Ethiopian church in Jerusalem, Israel

Executive Officer's report

FRH conducts various activities aimed at safeguarding Europe's religious heritage. These can mostly be grouped into four categories: membership, advocacy, awareness raising and specific projects.

Membership

FRH has two types of members: full members - organisations working in the field of religious heritage; university departments, public authorities; and associate members - individuals, professionals, students and volunteers working in the field of religious heritage.

In order to provide them with the opportunity of getting to know each other, exchange ideas, finding partners for projects and come up with possible collaborations we organise the following activities:

FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

These meetings are an opportunity for members to meet, discuss projects and initiatives, and share best practices. They are organised in cooperation with a local member on site and the format includes presentations by local experts and FRH members, a general presentation about FRH, discussion of specific topics and study visits to interesting religious heritage sites accompanied.

These meetings not only allow members to better understand each other's work and contribute to FRH projects, but they also provide FRH with useful insights on how the network can best support its members in their efforts to safeguard religious heritage across Europe.

A face-to-face meeting was held in Gotland, Sweden in September 2022, hosted by the Church of Sweden through the Diocese of Lund and Visby Cathedral Congregation. The island is home to the largest number of medieval churches in the world, which have been preserved almost intact over the centuries. The meeting featured several speakers from local organisations and FRH members and

included a visit to Visby Cathedral, some of the monastic ruins in the town and a longer tour of six of the 92 medieval churches on the island.

Two more face-to-face meetings took place online: in November from Coimbra, Portugal, and in December from Vilnius, Lithuania.

The face-to-face meeting from Portugal featured researchers Catarina Almeida and Rui Lobo from the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra (CES-UC). In their presentations, they introduced participants to Portugal's monastic heritage and the Santa Cruz Research project to make a 3D reconstitution of the Monastery of Santa Cruz de Coimbra in 1834. After the presentation, members participated in an open exchange in which best practices and insights were shared.

The face-to-face meeting from Lithuania featured Darius Liutikas, President of the Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims, who offered a general introduction to the sacred heritage of the country. The presentation was followed by a Q&A with participants.

FRH MASTERCLASSES

www.frh-europe.org/frh-masterclasses

The FRH Masterclasses aim to improve the capacity of FRH members to address current challenges in the cultural heritage sector with the aid of highly qualified professionals. During the masterclasses, participants have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of innovative methodologies and concepts as well as useful tools to face pressing issues facing religious heritage. This activity is exclusive to members of the FRH network.

In 2022 we organised two masterclasses:

- **The masterclass “Living Religious Heritage through a Narrative Approach:** from Preservation to the Continuity of Creation” was held online in April and featured Nigel Walter, a Specialist Conservation Architect and founding director of Archangel (an architects’ office specialising in the church, community and residential sectors) and Ioannis Poullos, an Associate Professor in Living Heritage and Business at Ahmedabad University in India.
- **The second entitled “Exhibiting religious language? Communicating the languages of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in museums”** took place in Wittenberg, Germany and online. It was a two-day masterclass with more than ten experts from diverse backgrounds. These experts included: Prof Dr Harald Schwillus (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg), Stefan Beier (Museumsleiter Kloster Lehnin), Prof Dr Stephanie Lehr-Rosenberg (Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg), Prof Dr Guido Meyer (RWTH Aachen University), Prof Dr Andreas Nachama (General Rabbinical Conference of Germany, ARK), Prof Dr Fahimah Ulfat (Eberhard-Karls-University Tübingen), Prof Dr René Torkler (Christian-Albrechts-Universität Kiel), Rev Hannes Langbein (President of Society for Contemporary Art and Church), Rev Veit Dinkelaker (Bible Experience Museum Frankfurt/Main), Prof Dr Daniela Blum (RWTH Aachen University), Dr Stefan Rhein (Director of Luther Memorials Foundation in Saxony-Anhalt), Dr Anja Schöne (RELIGIO - Westfall Museum of Religious Culture).

FRH TALKS

www.frh-europe.org/frh-talks

FRH Talks are a series of virtual chats where we invite the public to meet an expert in the cultural heritage field. The aim is to offer an in-depth view of some of the sector's burning issues and challenges as well as to give participants the floor to ask questions to an expert in the field and exchange views with the rest of the participants. The FRH Talks are open to everybody.

In 2022 we organised three FRH Talks:

- **The FRH Talk “Roubaix, Saint-Joseph church, preserving and sharing heritage”** took place in March and was conducted by Gilles Guey, director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Roubaix (France).
- **The FRH Talk “Youth and heritage: challenges and opportunities for the new generations”** took place in April. The session was led by PhD Student and Vice President & EHYA Programme Coordinator at ESACH (European Students' Association for Cultural Heritage) and Samidha Pusalkar Programmes Coordinator at ESACH, Scientific Advisory Committee member at FRH and PhD candidate at Politecnico di Milano.
- **The FRH Talk “Sound heritage: tips and tricks to promote places of worship”** took place in May and was conducted by Daniel Vanden Broecke, CEO of Het Orgel in Vlaanderen and professional organist.



11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The FRH 11th Annual General Meeting was held online on 20 October 2022. The meeting took place with the participation of FRH members and included presentations on activities such as the Run for Heritage, The Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year, the Photo Competition 2022. A financial review of the year was also shared along with the presentation of the strategy of the organisation for the period 2022-2024.

At the AGM, three new Council Members were elected, Lacramioara Beilic, Sofia M Vollmer, and Chiara Curti. Five Council members were re-elected, Pilar Bahamonde, Stefan Beier, Wenceslas de Lobkowicz, Michael Mail and Mara Popescu.

ADVOCACY

FRH participates in several networks and working groups on cultural heritage to make its members' voices heard loud and clear. In that regard, FRH highlights the relevance and richness of Europe's religious heritage, the challenges it is facing, and the best practices and creative innovations that can bring added value to the sector and to decision makers Europe-wide. FRH is a member of the Heritage Alliance 3.3; the European Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage; the EU Reflection Group on Cultural Heritage; the Climate Heritage Network; the Climate Heritage Network; and the New European Bauhaus.

The Heritage Alliance:

The Heritage Alliance brings together over 130 heritage organisations in a coalition for an independent heritage advocacy movement in the EU. Its activities include consultation, awareness events, advocacy groups, and more. In 2022 FRH Advisory Board President, Lilian Grootswagers, chaired the meetings of the Heritage Alliance.

The European Commission Expert Group on Cultural Heritage:

The group provides the Commission with advice and expertise, serving as a platform for consultation and exchange of information on cultural heritage policies to support the

implementation of the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage. The Expert Group includes the Commission, Member States and selected stakeholders operating in the area of culture and cultural heritage. The Group focuses on maintaining the spirit of cooperation and policy dialogue achieved during the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

The EU Reflection group for Cultural Heritage:

The EU Reflection Group for Cultural Heritage is an informal group of experts that are nominated by national heritage authorities. Its aim is to raise awareness on cultural heritage, its value for EU policy development, and its value as a resource for EU policy objectives. Its tasks include collaborating with other heritage organisations and authorities on a European level and to ensure that cultural heritage is considered in EU policymaking.

The Climate Heritage Network:

The Climate Heritage Network is a community of organisations from the culture field, working together with the goal of tackling climate change and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Climate Agreement. Their tasks include involving heritage in carbon mitigation, helping heritage adapt to the changing climate, planning for loss and damage to cultural heritage, and showcasing the potential of heritage as a tool for addressing these pressing challenges.

New European Bauhaus:

Launched by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in September 2020, the goal of the New European Bauhaus is to bring the European Green Deal closer to citizens and their living spaces by bridging the world of science and technology with the world of art and culture. As an official partner, FRH is committed to ensuring that religious heritage is included as an integral part of the New European Bauhaus and will advocate the need for a heritage-led transformation of our society, economy and environment.

Projects and activities

RELIGIANA

www.frh-europe.org/projects/religiana

Religiana is an online platform and key heritage resource giving religious heritage Europe wide visibility, and providing visitors with accurate information on opening hours, contact details, and historical information. The Religiana website also includes thematic lists, which feature key aspects of religious heritage across Europe, showcasing key examples with beautiful photographs and descriptions.

Religiana is developed by FRH in partnership with a growing number of organisations that promote or directly manage religious heritage sites at a local and regional level. This partnership with eleven geographically diverse organisations allows the promotion of these organisations, which also link their content to Religiana. The platform currently features more than 8,200 heritage sites in 46 countries, and is constantly expanding its coverage, with contributions by partners and the public, who are encouraged to upload information of their favourite religious heritage sites.

EUROPEAN RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DATABASE

In 2022 we took the first steps towards the creation of the European Religious Heritage Database, which aims to become the most comprehensive database on religious heritage sites in Europe. This database will include sustainability data such as renewable energy usage, biodiversity in land owned by these sites, identification of adaptive reuse and more. This will provide useful information for the European Green Deal strategy and the New European Bauhaus initiative, of which FRH is a proud partner.

RUN FOR HERITAGE

www.frh-europe.org/activities/ongoing-activities/run-for-heritage

Run for Heritage is an awareness raising campaign that unites sports and religious heritage, encouraging people, especially the younger generation, to go outside and explore their religious heritage. It was launched in 2021 to continue showcasing the legacy of The European Year of Cultural Heritage. Participants in the campaign take part in fun activities outdoors - stroll, bike tour, cultural visit - that promote healthy habits while allowing them to learn about the history and cultural richness of their towns and cities.

In 2022 we organised five Run for Heritage

activities: four in Potes, Spain, and one in Asti, Italy. In total more than 400 participants took part in the campaign.

- The first Run for Heritage, held in April, invited primary school students to visit the Lebaniego Centre for Studies in Potes and take part in various activities throughout the day.
- The second Run for Heritage, held in May, consisted of a dramatised visit with participants aged 3 to 5 years old, who learnt about the history of the former Church of San Vicente Martir.
- In the third Heritage Run, held in June, primary school students toured the town's places of worship and made a map to help future exchange students discover the religious heritage gems of Potes.
- In the fourth Heritage Run, also held in June, the students created a human chain between the sacred buildings of Potes, while the 4-5 year old group did various activities in the Lebaniego Centre for Studies in Potes.
- The fifth and last run for heritage of the year was held in October and took the students of Spazio Kor (FRH member) and Alchimie Urbane on a tour of four religious buildings in Asti: Sant'Anna Church (current municipal archive), Diavolo Rosso (cultural venue at the former St Michael's Church), the Cathedral of Asti and the Diocesan Museum and its crypt.

RELIGIOUS HERITAGE INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

www.frh-europe.org/religious-heritage-innovator-of-the-year

The Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year is a competition launched in 2022 to showcase the best examples of innovation in the religious heritage field. The theme chosen for its first edition was sustainability, not only understood as ecological sustainability but in a broader sense, encompassing an economic, social and spiritual dimension.

The competition was judged by three heritage experts: Peter Aiers, Chief Executive of the Charterhouse; Florian Trott, Managing Director and member of the Board of Directors of the Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, and Justin Kroesen, Professor of Cultural History at the University of Bergen and research curator of the Church Art Collection at its University Museum.

The Jury assessed the submissions and selected an overall winner and the four finalist projects on the basis of their innovative approach, their contribution to society and the scope of their activity.

The overall winner project of 2022 was **Orgelkids by the Kerkmuziek Netwerk (The Netherlands)**.

This educational project introduces children to the church organ in a very appealing way: by building one themselves. The project started in 2009 in The Netherlands to ensure that organs and organ music can continue to be enjoyed in the future despite church closures and the declining number of organists. Today, over 20 countries have embraced its successful formula, spreading the motto "organise the future" in their schools.

The finalist projects selected by the Jury were:

- The Ambulance for Monuments by Asociatia Monumentum (Romania)
- Peregrino Lebaniego Digital 4.0 by Zwit Project. Territorio Rural Inteligente (Spain)
- The School Church by Groninger Kerken (The Netherlands)
- Jewish Virtual Tourism by Jewish Majorca (Romania).

All selected projects were presented in a booklet available on the FRH website.





© image: Anne Ewart (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition) - The Moon at Wells Cathedral - Somerset, United Kingdom

PHOTO COMPETITION

<https://www.frh-europe.org/frh-photo-and-video-competition/>

The FRH Photo Competition is an annual contest open to amateurs, professionals and anybody with an interest in photography. The competition has three categories: Artefacts, Religious Buildings, and People and Events. The aim is to showcase the beauty and diversity of Europe's places of worship through its architectural wonders, fascinating artifacts, and unique celebrations.

In 2022 the competition received 260 entries from over 30 countries. The competition was judged by: Rubi Asa, Turkish architecture and photographer; José Cobo Calderón, Spanish sculptor; Savina Lambert, French artist and amateur photographer; Snezana Negovanovic, Serbian professional photographer working for the Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute of Belgrade; and Lilian Grootswagers, who is the President of FRH's Advisory Board and also the chair of the FRH Communications Committee.

The selection of the winner and eight finalists was made on the basis of content and aesthetics of the photographs and the creativity and technique demonstrated by the contestants.

The overall winner of 2022 was André Boto, from Portugal (Page 2). His outstanding photograph of the sunset over Silves' historic centre, with the Cathedral and part of the Misericórdia de Silves' church, was highly praised by the jury for its aesthetics and for the great mastery shown by the photographer in capturing such a beautiful moment.

The finalists were:

Category of Artefacts

- Balog Zoltan - Romania (Page 4)
- Mary Crnkovic Pilas - Croatia (Page 20)
- Szymon Wójcik - Poland (Page 10)

Category of People and Events

- Abdul Momin - Bangladesh (Page 26)
- Anne Ewart - UK (Page 18)
- Baruch Gian - Israel (Page 12)

Category of Religious Buildings

- Jahid Alam Apu - Bangladesh (Page 6)
- Josef Hinterleitner - Austria (Page 8)

All selected photographs were presented in a booklet available on the FRH website.



© image: Mary Crnkovic Pilas (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition) - The Botafumeiro of Santiago Cathedral - Santiago de Compostella, Spain

Our members across Europe

FRH has two types of membership: Full members (organisations that support FRH objectives) and Associate members (individuals). More information: www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/join-us



79 
FULL MEMBERS

122 
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

36 
IN COUNTRIES

18 
INDIVIDUALS

9 
ORGANISATIONS

7 
FROM COUNTRIES

JOINED THE FRH NETWORK

Our 2022 in numbers

15
EVENTS



7 ONLINE



8 IN-PERSON



3 FRH TALKS



2 MASTERCLASSES



3 FACE-TO-FACE



5 RUN FOR HERITAGE



1 EU REGIONS WEEK OFFICIAL EVENT

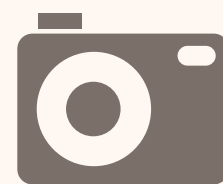


1 LEGACI PROJECT MEETING

+800



PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH FRH EVENTS



260
PHOTOS



30

COUNTRIES
SUBMITTED
TO THE 2022
PHOTO
COMPETITION



183 M

+400 

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE
RUN FOR HERITAGE CAMPAIGN**



+ 1.400

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

**2 DIGITAL
PUBLICATIONS**



**Religious Heritage Innovator
of the Year booklet and
Photo Competition booklet**



25.486
WEBSITE VISITORS

CONTRIBUTION TO

**2 EUROPEAN-FUNDED
PROJECTS:
BE CULTOUR AND
CHARTER PROJECT**

97.690



**VISITORS ON THE
RELIGIANA WEBSITE**



**SIGNATORIES
OF THE SKILLS
ALLIANCE**

ENTIONS ON TWITTER



3.600 VIEWS ON YOUTUBE



© image: Spazio Kor and Alchimie Urbane
- Run for Heritage in Asti, Italy

Contribution to the European Year of Youth

Over the course of 2022, we implemented several initiatives aimed at giving young people the opportunity to express their opinions and promoting religious heritage among younger people.

- **Five Runs for Heritage.** This campaign, which combines sport and visits to the local religious heritage of European cities and towns, involved over 400 participants, including young people and teachers, during 2022.
- **Free membership for students.** Since May 2022 we offer free membership for Bachelor and Master's students.
- **FRH Talk "Youth and heritage: challenges and opportunities for the new generations".** The second webinar of our FRH Talks series, held on 23 May 2022, was dedicated to the role of young people in heritage. The session was conducted by Samidha Pusalkar, Programmes Coordinator at ESACH and Sorina Neacsu, Vice President & Programme Coordinator of European Youth Heritage Ambassadors at ESACH.
- **Partnership with ESACH.** In April 2022 we began a partnership with the youth-led organisation European Students' Association for Cultural Heritage to strengthen our actions for European youth and intensify our outreach.
- **Newsletter section "Young Voices in Heritage".** This bimonthly section in our newsletter provides young people with a space to share their insights and experiences on cultural heritage matters and have their voices heard Europe-wide. The first article was published in August 2022.
- **A young pilgrim's diary.** In August 2022 16-year-old pilgrim Raúl Díaz chronicled his experience walking the Camino de Santiago through a pilgrim diary posted every day on social networks and online.
- **Call to collaborate in FRH Inform.** In September 2022 we offered students the possibility to collaborate in our FRH Inform project, supporting the FRH Scientific Committee in tasks such as data updating and reviewing the literature.





© image: Abdul Momin (finalist of the 2022 Photo Competition)
- The Prayer, Bangladesh

10 Key findings of religious heritage

From the four hybrid events of the 2021 FRH Biennial Conference “Europe’s Living Religious Heritage”, FRH established 10 key findings about how and why religious heritage is such an important resource to contributing to the Future of Europe.

These findings were compiled into a document that was presented by FRH President Pilar G. Bahamonde to Catherine Magnant, the Head of Unit of Cultural Policy for the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture at the European Commission during the final conference event “Continuity in Care and Safeguarding”.

- 1 Religious Heritage is a key component of European identity.** Both tangible and intangible religious heritage constitute the largest repository of cultural, artistic and historic heritage.
- 2 Religious Heritage is a source of local, national and European pride.** The religious heritage of European countries and regions offers a unique glimpse into their past history.
- 3 Religious Heritage is a major job creator.** It contributes to creating jobs and entrepreneurial activities in the conservation and maintenance areas and is a driver for tourism.
- 4 Study the past to define the future.** Religious heritage has contributed to the development of numerous areas of expertise, from art to music or architecture which can enrich present and future education.
- 5 Religious Heritage helps communities realise their potential,** especially in rural areas, providing training and new employment opportunities as a payback to local authorities that invest in them.
- 6 Religious Heritage supports efforts to create sustainable, eco-focused economies,** as reuse and regeneration of buildings no longer active are fundamental aspects that contribute to sustainability policies.
- 7 Religious Heritage brings economic benefits and cross-sectoral cooperation.** Working on religious heritage requires intergenerational co-operation, intercultural contact, face-to-face interaction and creates understanding.
- 8 Religious Heritage contributes to creating a liveable society** by finding new uses for religious buildings and contributing to stopping the drifting of young people to the cities.
- 9 Religious Heritage contributes to the understanding of European history** and is a source of knowledge, especially for young people.
- 10 Religious Heritage is a strategic resource for the future of Europe.** The combination of all the above points helps to build social and cultural cohesion in Europe for all its citizens.



© image: Lwin Lwin Kyaw - 'Reading' a young nun
in a nunnery school, Myanmar

The Friends of FRH

The Friends of FRH is an independent association set up by la Fondation Roi Baudouin. Its aims are to promote a better understanding of the sector's needs and advocate positive change, promote FRH as the European federation of like-minded organisations, provide a source of volunteer support and introduce FRH to major donors.

Friends are invited to join FRH events and participate in activities to meet each other, explore the different issues facing the sector, enjoy examples of Europe's glorious religious heritage and learn about FRH's projects and initiatives.

Friends of FRH welcomes anyone who wishes to support Europe's religious heritage. Join Friends of FRH now: www.frh-europe.org/get-involved/joinus/friends-of-frh

For further information on the Friends please contact FRH's office: info@frh-europe.org

DONATIONS TO FRH

Europe's sacred heritage - architectural, movable and intangible - is central to its cultural and aesthetic roots. In a constantly evolving society, religious buildings are unique repositories of art and history, a resource for sustainable development and quality of life and tools for urban regeneration.

By donating you are contributing to the safeguarding and preservation of this significant part of our society.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

By regular bank transfer to:

IBAN: BE35 0019 2887 7837

BIC: GEBABEBB

For tax certificates please contact the FRH office.



© image: Szymon Wójcik - Praying Chasid durring annual convention in Lelów, Poland

Statutory Information

COUNCIL 2022-2023

President - Pilar Bahamonde, Spanish, Director of Liébana Centre for Studies, and Infantado Tower Museum, Potes, Spain.

Treasurer - Sarah de Lencquesaing, American, Board Member of the French Heritage Society, the VMF, and Music Sacrée à Notre-Dame de Paris. Stefan Beier, German, Chair of the Board of KLOSTERLAND, an association of monasteries in Germany and Poland. Director of Museum im Zisterzienserkloster Lehnin.

Justin Kroesen, Dutch, Professor of the Material Culture of Christianity at the University of Bergen (Norway), and curator of the church art collection at its University Museum.

Henrik Lindblad, Swedish, One of the founding members of FRH and co-founder of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee PRERICO (Places of Religion and Ritual).

Wenceslas de Lobkowicz, French / Czech, Ambassador for the Order of the Knights of Malta to the Czech Republic. Vice-President of the European Historic Houses Association. Former EU lawyer.

Andrea Longhi, Italian, Associate Professor in the History of Architecture at the Politecnico di Torino. Consultant for Cultural Heritage Projects for ecclesiastical projects and from 2019 consultant on the implementation of the Regional Landscape Plan for Regione Piemonte.

Michael Mail, Scottish, Founder & Chief Executive, Foundation for Jewish Heritage.

Mara Popescu, Romanian, Expert in Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development.

Chiara Curti, Italian, Doctor in Art History, teaching at the Antoni Gaudi Faculty at the Ateneu Sant Pacia. Director of the Barcelona Office of the Eugenia Balcells Foundation.

Sofia M. Vollmer, French/Venezuelan, Director of Business Development for a Belgian Company that provides digital tools to family offices, businesses, boards and councils worldwide.

Lacramioara Beilic, Romanian, Executive Director of the Bucovina Tourism Association



© image: Leoncini - Cross facing the sea winds, erected in 1934 on the island of Yeu, France

Governance

COUNCIL

The Council, elected by its members, is responsible for FRH's governance. Council members also play a role as ambassadors for the association. FRH seeks to combine within its Council good knowledge of the sector, competency in ensuring top quality governance and specific skills such as the supervision of complex cross-border projects. It aims to include a good spread of nationality.

FRH ADVISORY BOARD

The members of the Advisory Board are previous Council members who advise the current Council.

Lilian Grootswagers-Theuns - President of the Advisory Board. Owner of Erfgoed.nu, a Dutch Heritage Institute, and Vice-President of the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen.

Thomas Coomans de Brachène - Belgian, professor at the KU Leuven, representative of the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation. Founder member of FRH.

Graham Bell - Director of the UK-based NGO Cultura Trust and the Hungarian Renaissance Foundation. Founder member of FRH.

INTERNAL RULES

The statutes and internal rules are available on the website: www.frh-europe.org/about-frh/organization/documents

REGISTERED OFFICE

67 Rue de Trèves, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium.
FRH currently employs two full-time staff.

LEGAL IDENTITY

FRH was registered as an ASBL (Association Sans But Lucratif – a non-profit organisation) in Belgium on 29th September 2011 under number 839745430.

COMMITTEES

Members are encouraged to participate actively in Committees, who provide recommendations and guidance on FRH's activities and strategy. The full committee organigram is available on the FRH website: www.frh-europe.org/about-frh/organization/committees

The Committees include:

The Executive Committee - composed of three Council members, it supports the FRH office, oversees day to day implementation of Council policies, and provides organisational direction for FRH's Executive Officer.

The Communication Committee - provides recommendations and supports the FRH office with external communications.

The Finance Committee - supervises FRH's finances with the help of an external accountant and ensures that FRH fulfils its statutory financial obligations.

The Membership Committee - helps FRH develop a coherent membership strategy.

The Governance and Nominations Committee - sets the structures under which FRH operates, manages the nomination process to committees and to the Council.

The Scientific Committee - provides scientific expertise and guidance to FRH.

The Strategic Planning Committee - sets the general FRH strategy for the upcoming years.

The Conference Subcommittee - sets the academic perspectives for the FRH Biennial Conference.



© image: Milan Gonda – Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church - Ermoupoli, Greece

Accounts

	12/2020	12/2021	12/2022
Income			
Membership fees	14 200	15 075	13 100
Donors	30 438	6 891	20 862
EU funding	190 737	167 102	132 000
Others	0	0	492
TOTAL INCOME	235 375	189 068	166 454
Expenses			
Rent	-17 730	-13 444	-5 550
Salaries	-134 844	-105 928	-101 212
Telephone, Post, Internet	-2 340	-1 215	-4 972
Printing, Documentation	-4 146	-230	-471
IT SUPPLIES	-6 073	-8.878	-6 179
Insurance	-195	-195	0
IT Development	-10 094	-12 693	-14 965
Fees	-45 604	-36 849	-25 209
Partena - HR supplier	-3 754	-2 660	-2 379
Hotel	-2 340	-154	-2 556
Substenance	-1 749	-2 256	-829
Travel	-6 786	-2 216	-3 417
Finance costs	342	-949	1 380
Other	0	-1 199	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	-235 313	-188 866	-166 359
RESULT	59	202	95
	12/2020	12/2021	12/2022
Assets			
Members	76 000	62 253	2 492
Bank Balances	171 778	213 138	119 537
Accruals FRB	4 800	4 800	4 800
TOTAL ASSETS	252 578	280 191	126 829
Liabilities			
Creditors	29 160	18 2128	17 554
Grants received in advance	180 590	218 950	66 150
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-209 750	-237 162	-83 704
NET ASSETS	-42 827	-43 028	-43 126

"Religious heritage is the biggest museum of Europe, and its buildings are markers of it connected by routes and paths and lanes which were the highways of their time. Cathedrals, synagogues, mosques, chapels, and hermitages are real palimpsests. They hold layers upon layers of history and art."

Pilar G. Bahamonde, FRH President

Future for Religious Heritage

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No. 839 745 430

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© image: Aleksandar Nikolov - A sunset at the "Holy Trinity" monastery in Cross Forest - Krastova Gora, Bulgaria

www.frh-europe.org